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GENERAL STUDIES COMMENT SHEET 1511

Name of Candidate	Aashna Chaudhary		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	**Registration Number**	7 7 8 8 7 7
Center		**Date**	

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Despite a vast coast line and a number of waterways, why has India not been able to achieve its potential in bringing a significant modal shift from rail and road to waterways? (150 words) 10

विस्तृत तट रेखा और अनेक जलमार्गों के बावजूद, भारत रेल और सड़क परिवहन प्रणाली से जलमार्गों की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण प्रणालीगत परिवर्तन (मोडल शिफ्ट) करने हेतु अपनी क्षमता को सार्थक करने में क्यों असमर्थ रहा है?

Ans: India has a vast coastline of 7,516 km with around 5,000 km peninsular mainland coastline and around 2,000 km islands coastline.

Reasons for modal conservation to Roads and Railways

1) Flexibility associated with roads whereby trucks could be stopped and rest taken at will.

2) Various regulations and clearances delayed due to red tapism.

3) Slow mode of transport and time taking

4) Infrastructural irregularities in the waterways.

5) Policy paralysis with Sagarmala

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initiative taking a backseat with completion delays.

Way Forward

1) Infrastructure creation with a component in National Infrastructure Pipeline.

2) Boost to private participation through various incentives.

3) Single window clearances.

With waterways being the cheapest mode of transport, it needs a push by the government.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. The move to establish a National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development, to reverse the drag on India's growth potential will have its own set of challenges. Discuss. (150 words) 10

भारत की संवृद्धि क्षमता संबंधी अवरोधों को व्युत्क्रमित करने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय अवसंरचना वित्तपोषण और विकास बैंक की स्थापना के कदम की अपनी स्वाभाविक चुनौतियां होंगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: The failure of IL&FS and other NBFCs in manifing infrastructural growth has led to the debates around a National Bank ~~for~~ for Infrastructure financing

[Drivers of Growth]

1) Dedicated credit dispersion for infrastructure creation

2) Ease of Doing Business leading to a high private sector participation

3) Financing of the stalled project giving impetus to monetization initiative by the government.

[Challenges]

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1) Multiplicity of agencies leading to further ~~dot~~ close-ups due to competition.
2) Decline in profits and high levels of NPAs traditionally associated with the sector.
3) Competition with National Infrastructure Pipeline with an allocation of ₹ 100 Lakh Crores.

Thus, a National Monetization Pipeline and National Infrastructure Pipeline should be more focused with contemporary paucity of resources.

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3. Highlighting the issues related to the current fertilizer subsidy regime in India, discuss the need for reforms in this context. (150 words) 10

भारत में वर्तमान उर्वरक सब्सिडी व्यवस्था से संबंधित मुद्दों को रेखांकित करते हुए, इस संदर्भ में सुधारों की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: The subsidies in India account for 0.3 % of India's GDP, with agricultural subsidies being the maximum (Economic Survey 2019 - 20).

Issues related to fertilizer subsidies

1) Ammonia waste generation, with levels as high as 3 ppm recovered from Yamuna water.

2) Cornering of subsidies by large farmers.

3) Increased use of urea compromising soil fertility.

4) Corruption by fertilizer companies in availing subsidies.

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Reforms Needed

1) Direct Benefit Transfer to discourage excess application of fertilizers.

2) A reduction in subsidies to urea-based fertilizers in favour of N, P, K fertilizers

3) Capping on usage of fertilizers based on area of land.

4) A positive shift towards Zero Budget Natural Farming.

Soil Health Card Scheme is a good effort to rationalize fertilizer application in India.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. Identifying the need for a climate resilient agriculture in India, discuss how it can be achieved. (150 words) 10

भारत में जलवायु प्रत्यास्थ कृषि की आवश्यकता की पहचान करते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि इसे कैसे प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

Ans: A 1°C rise in temperature as compared to pre-industrial levels, has necessitated a debate on climate-resilient agriculture.

Need for Climate Resilient Agriculture in India

1) A decline in groundwater in Green Revolution areas. Eg Punjab

2) India is exposed to climate variance with localised heavy rain events destroying crops

3) Decline soil fertility due to excess exposure to fertilizers.

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Adoption of Climate Resilient Agriculture

1) MSP reforms in favor of legumes for nitrogen fixation.

2) A change in cropping pattern with nutri-cereals providing higher energy and suited to agro-climatic conditions in India.

3) Direct Seeding of Paddy, Zero Budget Natural Farming can help in climate resilience.

Climate resilient agriculture will help in ensuring nutritional security in the long run.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. Mega Food Parks (MFPs) were considered to be a gamechanger for the food processing sector in India, but their progress remains stunted. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

मेगा फूड पार्कों (MFPs) को भारत में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण (गेमचेंजर) समझा गया था, लेकिन उनकी प्रगति अभी भी अवरुद्ध है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: Mega Food Parks refer to the area-clusters promoting the food processing adopting a life-cycle approach.

Importance in Food Processing Sector

1) Value addition for primary products through primary and secondary processing centres.

2) Reduce wastage through collection centres and a link to cold chain

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3) Develop forward and backward linkages.

Reasons for Stunted Growth

1) Land requirements are very high.

2) Lack of credit due to apprehension of banks regarding the performance of sector in the past.

3) Low processing levels with only 3% of fruits and vegetables being processed in the country.

There is a need for greater private sector participation, credit injection and policy support to Mega Food Parks.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Give an account of the challenges associated with rapidly increasing biomedical waste in India. Also, state the key features of the Bio-medical Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में तीव्रता से बढ़ रहे जैव-चिकित्सा अपशिष्ट से जुड़ी चुनौतियों का विवरण दीजिए। साथ ही, जैव-चिकित्सा अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन (संशोधन) नियम, 2018 की प्रमुख विशेषताओं का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Ans. Biomedical waste has increased by 300% in 2020 on account of COVID 19 pandemic outbreak.

Challenges associated with Biomedical Waste

1) Lack of segregation of waste at the domestic level.

2) Antimicrobial resistance due to exposure to biomedical waste.

3) Hazardous waste releasing toxins thereby leading to biodiversity loss.

4) Health impacts to the waste collectors being exposed to such a waste.

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Key features of Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2018

1) Differentiate between home-generated, hospital-generated and defence-generated waste.

2) Provision for a disposal facility attached to hospitals.

3) An incineration process to be adopted.

4) Penal provisions due to non-adherence to the rules.

COVID 19 has necessitated the scientific disposal facilities more than ever.

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7. What do you understand by impact based forecasting in disaster management? How can such forecasting strengthen the disaster management preparedness? (150 words) 10

आपदा प्रबंधन में प्रभाव आधारित पूर्वानुमान से आप क्या समझते हैं? ऐसा पूर्वानुमान आपदा प्रबंधन की तैयारियों को कैसे मजबूत कर सकता है?

Ans: Impact based forecasting refers to the warning system based on scientific study of traditional experiences with the disaster on a case-to-case basis.

Role of Impact based Forecasting in Disaster Management

1) Prediction of the nature of disaster in the terrain.

2) Associated climatic, geographical and geological conditions with the disaster occurrence

3) Early warning related to the disaster

4) Structural tweaks through a Building Code for resilience

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to disaster.

5) Community guidelines and policy documents for dealing with the disaster.

Thus, impact based forecasting is essential to disaster preparedness response and recovery.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. Low Earth Orbit is becoming increasingly crowded as countries race to launch satellites into space. Highlighting the associated issues, discuss international efforts taken in this regard. (150 words) 10

देशों द्वारा अंतरिक्ष में उपग्रहों को प्रक्षेपित करने की बढ़ती होड़ से निम्न भू-कक्षा में इनका संकेंद्रण बढ़ता ही जा रहा है। इससे संबंधित मुद्दों को रेखांकित करते हुए, इस संबंध में किए गए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रयासों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans. Low Earth Orbit has 3,000 non-functional and 4,000 functional satellites.

Crowding of LEO

1) A race to launch remote-sensing satellites such as Cartosat series.

2) Anti-Satellite exercises such as Mission Shakti by India.

3) Collision of satellites in the space.

4) Space linked internet ventures such as Starlink by Space X.

Associated issues

1) Kessler Syndrome leading a chain reaction to space debris.

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2) The absence of international regulation to check overcrowding.

3) Determination of International Space Station Components by 0.04% every 4 years.

International Efforts Taken

1) Outer Space Treaty 1967 for responsible use of space.

2) Remove Debris Programme by European Union.

3) Project NETRA by India

4) Ground based monitoring of debris.

While space has been used for a plethora of developmental activities it is needed that it should be kept clean of debris.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. Enumerating the existing measures to counter bio-terrorism in India, highlight the need for a bio-terrorism law. (150 words) 10

भारत में जैव-आतंकवाद का मुकाबला करने के लिए मौजूदा उपायों को सूचीबद्ध करते हुए, एक जैव-आतंकवाद कानून की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Ans: Bio-terrorism is defined as the usage of bacteria, virus, fungi and other biological agents to cause death and disease in a geographical region. Eg 2001 Anthrax spores in postcards in India.

Existing Measures to counter Bio-Terrorism in India

1) A deterrance in the form of defensive bio-terror facility.

2) Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to check the entry of invasive alien species.

3) A signatory to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

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Need for a Bio-Terrorism Law

1) Conflictual neighbours such as Pakistan and China.

2) A rise in epidemics and pandemics such as SARS, Nipah Virus.

3) A robust Research and Development framework.

4) Difficulty in controlling such attacks and massive vulnerability due to large population.

A dedicated and comprehensive law is required to check that such an attack is never faced by the country.

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10. Discuss the potential of "Integrated Law Enforcement Centres" and "Smart Walls" on India's border areas to address the prevailing security challenges. **(150 words) 10**

मौजूदा सुरक्षा चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए भारत के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में "एकीकृत कानून प्रवर्तन केंद्रों" और "स्मार्ट वॉल" की क्षमता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans With a land border of over 15,000 kms, India is a vulnerable nation to border security breaches

Prevailing security challenges

1) Border disputes, eg Gilgit-Baltistan, Aksai Chin, Arunachal Pradesh, Siachen, etc.

2) Smuggling of gold, cattle, drugs, etc. across the border

3) Anti-national activities and terrorism influx from the border.

4) Water disputes such as Teesta Water Dispute along Indo-Bangladesh Border.

New Initiatives Taken

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1) Integrated Law Enforcement Centres

- A uniform policy directive for the maintenance of borders.
- Co-ordination across the various forces across various borders
- Portrayal of India's seriousness regarding border security

2) Smart Walls

- Use of technology has opened future avenues for research in border security
- Lack of human interface leading to minimal errors.

It is high time that border security be taken seriously with the adoption of technology and a multi-stakeholder approach.

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11. Farm loan waivers are neither adequate nor recommended for promoting sustained agricultural growth. Analyse. (250 words) 15

सतत कृषि विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कृषि ऋण माफी न तो पर्याप्त है और न ही अनुशंसित। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Ans: Farm loan waivers have become a regular feature of Indian polity and economy.

Adequacy of farm loan waivers

Favour

1) Needed to curb the suicide rate, presently at 4.2% among Indian farmers.

2) Pay the debts with 52% agricultural households debt-ridden.

3) Alleviate the genuine distress of farmers due to crop failure.

Against

1) Does not break the debt cycle.

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2) Connected by large farmers.
3) No guarantee for future crop failures due to vagaries of nature.

Loan Waivers and Sustained Growth

Favour

1) Breaking off the debt cycle, may provide a boost to small and marginal farmers.
2) Availability of funds to buy inputs and carry a sustained growth.
3) Morale boost leading to hard work.

Against

1) Moral Hazard with farmers

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leading to NPAs.

2) Overexploitation of land with an increased government support

3) Immediate solution with land-related problems intact in the long run.

An investment in soil health, climate resilience and organic solutions are the way forward.

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12. A number of initiatives in recent years have focussed on the MSME sector. Why is there a need to focus on this sector? Also, identify the measures taken by the government and further scope of action. (250 words) 15

हाल के वर्षों में अनेक पहलों ने MSME क्षेत्रक पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है। इस क्षेत्रक पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की आवश्यकता क्यों है? साथ ही, सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों और आगे की कार्रवाई के दायरे की पहचान कीजिए।

Ans: MSME sector has seen growth in the last decade unprecedented in the country at the turn of century.

Need for focus on this sector

1) Export potential with 40% of all industrial exports being attributed to MSME.

2) High employment opportunities with the sector employing 11% of the workforce

3) Multiplier effect with a 1.2% rise in GDP per 10% increase in MSMEs.

4) Reduction in poverty levels in

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line with SDG 1

Measures taken by Government

1) Production Linked Incentives for attracting investments in the sector.

2) MUDRA Banks for re-financing credits to the sector.

3) Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme

4) Stand Up India Scheme for uplifting women and deprived sections entrepreneurship.

Way Forward

1) Infrastructure creation with a component in National Infrastructure Pipeline.

2) Tax incentives in the long-run.

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3) Long-term credit at cheaper interest rates.

4) Ease of Doing Business via minimizing red tapism and increasing enforcement of contracts.

MSMEs have great potential in taking economy to $5 tn in the coming years. Thus, a renewed focus on MSME is the need of the hour.

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13 Skilling the Indian population faces a 3E challenge - Education, Employment and Employability. Discuss. Also suggest interventions required to effectively manage this challenge. (250 words) 15

भारतीय जनसंख्या को कौशल युक्त बनाने में 3E चुनौतियों, यथा- शिक्षा (एजुकेशन), रोजगार (एम्प्लॉयमेंट) और नियोजनीयता (एम्प्लॉयबिलिटी) का सामना करना पड़ता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इन चुनौतियों का प्रभावी ढंग से प्रबंधन करने के लिए आवश्यक हस्तक्षेपों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Ans: Skilling is the need of the hour with India being in the phase of Demographic Dividend which is expected to last till 2035.

Challenges in Skilling Indian Population

1) Education

i) Only 70% of the Indian population is literate, with tribals illiteracy as high as 46% (MoTA, 2019 Report)

ii) COVID 19 impact with a decline in Gross Enrollment Rate due to digital divide

iii) Low Budgetary Allocation, i.e only 2.3% of GDP

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2) Employment

i) As per PLFS 2019, unemployment levels are 45 years high in the country.

ii) Disguised unemployment with 52% of Indian population engaged in agriculture sector.

iii) Low social security as unorganised sector accounts for more than 90% in employment creation.

3) Employability

i) In a PLFS Survey, it was revealed that only 9% of the employed are formally or informally trained in India.

ii) Lack of vocational training in education curricula

iii) Outdated skill infrastructure

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with less focus on industry relevant skills.

Way Forward

1) Vocational skills and apprenticeship to be included in the school curriculum.
2) Creation of 10 million jobs per year to infuse the labour force
3) Relevant skills through industry-academia linkage

Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling are required to prevent India's demographic dividend from becoming demographic disaster

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14. Despite its importance, agricultural marketing faces various institutional and infrastructural related issues in India. Elaborate. Also, enlist the measures that have been taken in this context. (250 words) 15

अपने महत्व के बावजूद, कृषि विपणन को भारत में विभिन्न संस्थागत और अवसंरचना संबंधी मुद्दों का सामना करना पड़ता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संदर्भ में किए गए उपायों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Ans Agriculture marketing refers to the mechanisms involved in the selling of agricultural produce

Importance of Agricultural Marketing

1) Stable income for farmers through the provision of MSP.
2) Competitional disadvantage to poor farmers reduced
3) A central mandi to ensure ready market for farmers with low infrastructure to hold perishables.

Issues with Agriculture Marketing

1) Institutional
i) Exploitation of farmers by the middlemen, known as

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'arhtiyas'

ii) High Mandi fees being drawn from poor farmers.

iii) Inhibit competition and less choice to farmers who are reduced to being price-takers.

2) Infrastructure related issues

i) High wastage to the tune of 12-15% due to lack of cold chain integration.

ii) Irregularities in the timings of Mandi

iii) No transportation support to poor farmers

Measures Taken

1) Model APMC Act to improve the functioning of Mandis.

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2) e-NAM for greater choice and procedural ease for farmers.
5) The three farm laws that have been repealed also addressed the issue with agriculture marketing.

With agriculture being a state subject, it is needed that states are on-board central efforts to reform the sector.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Marine litter is not just an environmental issue but poses a socio-economic challenge as well. Discuss. Also, enumerate the initiatives taken by the global community to reduce marine litter. (250 words) 15

समुद्री कचरा न सिर्फ एक पर्यावरणीय मुद्दा है, अपितु यह एक सामाजिक-आर्थिक चुनौती भी खड़ी करता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, समुद्री कचरे को कम करने के लिए वैश्विक समुदाय द्वारा की गई पहलों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Ans: Recently, fishes have been found to be polluted due to ingestion of Formaldehyde.

Challenges related to Marine Litter

1) Environmental

i) Loss of biodiversity due to high ingestion of plastic by marine organisms

ii) decline in coral reefs that serve as habitats for marine organism. Eg, Coral Reef Bleaching

iii) Sedimentation of water bodies leading to urban floods.

iv) Eutrophication and the loss of biodiversity.

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2) Socio-economic challenge
i) A dip in fish exports from India due to marine litter.
ii) Health issues such as Minamata disease from mercury pollution

Initiatives taken by Global Community

1) MARPOL to reduce pollution by ships.
2) Minamata Convention 2016 to reduce mercury pollution.
3) Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the rights clean ecosystem of organisms.

Way Forward

1) A comprehensive international legislation covering marine

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pollution.

2) Adherence to Paris Climate Agreement, NDCs to bring down light pollution.

3) Curb disposal of plastics in the water bodies

'Conservation of species' is the first step to 'Conservation of environment'.

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16. Assess India's vulnerability to flash floods and suggest measures for better resilience to flash floods. In this context, also briefly highlight the significance of recently launched Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) operated by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). (250 words) 15

आकस्मिक बाढ़ के प्रति भारत की सुभेद्यता का आकलन कीजिए और इसके प्रति बेहतर लचीलेपन के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, हाल ही में आरंभ की गयी तथा भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) द्वारा संचालित आकस्मिक बाढ़ मार्गदर्शन प्रणाली (FFGS) के महत्व पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

Ans: Flash floods refer to recurring local floods, due to natural and anthropogenic reasons.

India's Vulnerability

Around 12% of India's land area is vulnerable to flash floods. Eg. Karnataka floods in 2020.

Measures for resilience to flash floods

1) Preparedness
   i) Early Warning Systems such as C-FLOWS and I-FLOWS.
   ii) Community awareness generation regarding dealing with flash floods.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) Mitigation

i) Structural

- Development of sponge cities in line with China.
- Rain water Harvesting infrastructure to deal with dual whammy of floods and droughts.

ii) Non-structural

- Flash Flood Guidelines such as Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS)
- Policy Measures and a separate legislation to deal with flash floods.

3) Rescue

- Immediate deployment of National Disaster Response Force.

4) Recovery

- Provisions of medicines through drone delivery.
- Long-term rehabilitation

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with structural mitigation measures.

Flash Flood Guidance System

Launched by IMD, it is highly relevant in:

1) Data gathering and vulnerability assessment.
2) Impending disaster warning
3) Community awareness and dedicated training to troops.
4) Evacuation and rehabilitation measures

In lines with "Disaster Risk Reduction", FFGS is an innovative solution.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Hydrogen based energy production can play a key role in a clean, secure and affordable energy future. In this context, identify the potential and opportunities for utilising hydrogen based technologies. What are the challenges that need to be addressed to fullfill the potential?

(250 words) 15

हाइड्रोजन आधारित ऊर्जा उत्पादन एक स्वच्छ, सुरक्षित और वहनीय ऊर्जा के भविष्य में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकता है। इस संदर्भ में, हाइड्रोजन आधारित प्रौद्योगिकियों के उपयोग करने की संभावनाओं और अवसरों की पहचान कीजिए। इस क्षमता को साकार करने के लिए किन चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है?

Ans. Hydrogen based Energy is an alternative to fossil fuels based energy, given an impetus in National Hydrogen Project Mission, 2021.

Potential and Opportunities

1) Renewable source of energy with water being the only by-product.

2) High availability of Hydrogen in the free atmosphere as well as in the form of water molecule.

3) In line with India's commitment of reducing Green House

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Gas emissions by 33-35% by 2030 as compared to 2005 levels.

Challenges

1) A disruptive technology involving high costs.
2) Green Hydrogen is thrice as costly as Grey Hydrogen
3) Highly inflammable leading to risks in transportation and storage.

Way Forward

1) Incentives by the government for the production of Hydrogen based energy
2) Boost research and development for making Green Hydrogen economical.
3) Use of next generation cylinders

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for reducing the danger associated with inflammable conditions.

Renewable energy in the future with fossil fuels being limited in nature.

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18. Despite the huge promise of satellite-based internet connectivity, it hasn't gained traction on a significant commercial scale, especially in India. Discuss. (250 words) 15

उपग्रह आधारित इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी में निहित विशाल संभावना के बावजूद, इसने विशेष रूप से भारत में, वाणिज्यिक पैमाने पर महत्वपूर्ण पकड़ स्थापित नहीं किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: Satellite based internet connectivity refers to the network in the outer space utilized for internet connectivity.

Huge Promise of Satellite Based Internet

1) Economic growth, with a 10% increase in internet connectivity driving the GDP by 20%.

2) Low latency with a large number of satellites being placed in Low Earth Orbit.

3) High accessibility and remote area connectivity leading to better governance.

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4) High quality service aimed at rural-based solutions.

Challenges

1) Requirement of a large number of satellites, and thus, high capital ~~co~~ costs.

2) Minor obstructions may lead to a disruption in service.

3) In addition to the already high space junk with 3,000 dysfunctional satellites.

Way Forward

1) Government support to initiatives like Starlink, Project Kuiper, Project Kuiper, etc.

2) Boosting private sector investments in India through ESG bonds.

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3) Human Capital Creation through state-of-the art technology and infrastructure

"Digital" is the new keyword conditional upon internet penetration. Space-based internet is a futuristic solution in this regard.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. India's attempts at strengthening its intelligence infrastructure and capabilities have historically been reactive and incremental, rather than holistic and sustainable. Discuss. Also, provide a concrete framework in transforming the country's intelligence capabilities.

(250 words) 15

अपनी आसूचना अवसंरचना और क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने के भारत के प्रयास समग्र और स्थायी होने के बजाय ऐतिहासिक रूप से प्रतिक्रियाशील और वृद्धिशील रहे हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, देश की आसूचना क्षमताओं के रूपांतरण हेतु एक ठोस ढांचा भी प्रदान कीजिए।

Ans: Intelligence infrastructure is robust in India comprising Intelligence Bureau (IB), RAW, Narcotics Control Bureau, etc.

Historical assessment of India's Intelligence Capabilities

1) Reactive and incremental

i) Creation of Research & Analysis Wing (RAW) in the aftermath of Indo-China Conflict (1962). and Indo-Pakistan War (1965)

ii) NATGRID and National Investigation Agency (NIA) formed in the aftermath of Mumbai Terror Attack,

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2008

2) Not Holistic and Sustainable
i) Use of colonial-era intelligence techniques by IB ~~even after~~ till after two decades of independence.
ii) Earlier activities of RAW were limited to the actions of Pakistan and China
iii) Limitations of CBI via "general consent" clause.

Transforming country's intelligence capabilities

1) A white paper on procedural and operational gaps in the intelligence infrastructure.
2) A comprehensive legislation demarcating the operational spheres of different agencies.

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3) Co-ordination between Centre and State for national unity and integrity.

Intelligence gathering is the first step in ensuring internal security and needs to be revamped.

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20. In light of the prominent instances of drone attacks by both state and non state actors, assess the challenges and capabilities of India in dealing with such security threats. (250 words) 15

राज्य और गैर-राज्य दोनों अभिकर्ताओं द्वारा ड्रोन हमलों के प्रमुख दृष्टांतों के परिप्रेक्ष्य में, ऐसे सुरक्षा खतरों से निपटने में भारत की चुनौतियों और क्षमताओं का आकलन कीजिए।

Ans: There have been high instances of drone usage along Indo-Pakistan and Indo-China borders.

Prominent instances

1) Recovery of spy drones from Jammu and Kashmir in 2021.
2) Influx of nano drones at Line of Actual Control (LoAC), recovered by ITBP time and again.
3) Dropping of AK 47/56 in Purulia, West Bengal.

Challenges in dealing with such threats

1) Low technological capability

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for dealing with advanced technology attacks.

2) Difficulties in establishing the origin of the attacks.

3) Data breach via nano drones and spy drones.

Capabilities of India

1) Advanced radar detectors such as Falcon AWACS from Israel.

2) High capability advanced drone technology, such as Rustom.

3) National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) working towards perfecting the technology

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Technology-oriented problems require technology-oriented solutions. Thus, India should manify its technological infrastructure in dealing with modern internal security challenges.

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GENERAL STUDIES COMMENT SHEET 1863

Name of Candidate	Aashna Chaudhary		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	**Registration Number**	7 7 8 8 7 7
Center		**Date**	

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Parliamentary oversight of administration is not an end in itself rather it acts as a means to strengthen the efficient functioning of the administration. Discuss. (150 words) 10

प्रशासन की संसदीय निगरानी अपने आप में एक अंत नहीं है बल्कि यह प्रशासन के कुशल कामकाज को मजबूत करने के एक साधन के रूप में कार्य करता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: India follows a Parliamentary form of government where executives are responsible to the legislature.

Parliamentary oversight as a means to strengthen efficient functioning of administration

1) Tools of Parliamentary oversight include Question Hour, Zero Hour, debate and discussion that ensure transparency and accountability.

2) Audit Reports by CAG and their presentation in the Parliament ensures Checks and Balances on the administration.

3) Effective and efficient service delivery through recommendations

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of Parliamentary Committees.

4) No confidence Motion is a potent tool to ensure the administration fulfills its mandate.

Thus, Parliamentary oversight is critical to the administration and governance in India with the application of transparency, accountability and efficient service delivery.

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2. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution has weakened the democratic credentials of India's representative democracy. Critically discuss.

(150 words) 10

संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची ने भारत के प्रतिनिधि लोकतंत्र की लोकतांत्रिक साख को कमजोर कर दिया है। समालोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: The Tenth Schedule was inserted in 1986 as 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act to deal with the issue of defection.

Tenth Schedule and Democracy

Weakening the Democracy

- In favour

1) Re-orient the viewpoints of the candidate to the viewpoints of the whips.

2) Criticism of one's party policies has almost ended

3) Prioritising party interests over the will of the people who voted for the candidate

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• Arguments Against

1) Enhances the stability of the government leading to better governance and escaping frequent elections

2) Escaping the situation of policy paralysis and faster implementation of policies

3) The problem of Horse trading and corruption in politics can be curbed to some extent.

There is a need to revise the Tenth Schedule to include genuine criticism of the political parties.

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3. Article 246 of the Indian Constitution is considered as the cornerstone of Centre-state legislative relations. Discuss. (150 words) 10

भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 246 को केंद्र-राज्य विधायी संबंधों की आधारशिला माना जाता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: Article 246 corresponds to the 7th Schedule of the Constitution, which has its beginnings in GoI Act, 1935.

Centre - State Legislative Relations

1) Art. 246 comprise Union List, State List and Concurrent List as well as the mandate of the respective governments.

2) The residuary powers are vested in the Union.

3) Art. 246 strengthens India's position as a "Federal set up with a strong Centre" or as K.C. Wheare calls it, "a quasi-federal setup"

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4) Strong constitution which is rigid and supreme leads to the survival of India's Federalism.

However, the recent Dam Safety Act is criticised for Centre's encroachment in State's legislative domain. There is a need to address such issues of usurpation of power at one level.

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4. Although the provision of issuing ordinances amounts to the usurpation of legislative power by the Executive, both Centre and states in India have taken unrestrained course to it. Discuss. (150 words) 10

हालांकि अध्यादेश जारी करने का प्रावधान कार्यपालिका द्वारा विधायी शक्ति के अधिग्रहण के समान है, फिर भी भारत में केंद्र और राज्यों दोनों ने इसे अनियंत्रित रीति से प्रयुक्त किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: Art. 123 and Art. 213 of the Constitution encompass ordinance-making powers of the President and Governor respectively.

Ordinances as usurpation of legislative power by Executive

1) Ordinances are the exceptional powers granted to the Head of State to deal in emergency circumstances when either of the House is not in session.

2) A violation of Separation of Powers concept by Montesquieu.

3) The ordinances are made on the advice of the Prime Minister followed by Council of

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Ministers that belong to the Executive.

Unrestrained recourse to Ordinances

1) The recent Farm Bill controversy sparked with the passing of ordinance to that effect by the President.

2) There have been instances in Bihar where ordinances were used to by pass the legislature.

3) In NDNO, due to suspension of Parliamentary proceedings, ordinances became a regular feature sparking controversy.

Dr. BR Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly debates defended ordinance "as an extraordinary weapon". It should not be made a regular feature.

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5. There has been a manifold increase in the number of ministries in the central government since independence. Do you agree with the view there is a need to phase out many ministries and amalgamate others in this context? (150 words) 10

स्वतंत्रता के बाद से केंद्र सरकार में मंत्रालयों की संख्या में कई गुना वृद्धि हुई है। क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि इस संदर्भ में कई मंत्रालयों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करने और अन्य को समामेलित करने की आवश्यकता है?

Ans: The recent Ministry of Jal Shakti created in 2019 has sparked debate regarding multiplicity of Ministries with overlapping mandate.

Need to bring down Ministries

Arguments For

1) Increase in costs and higher budgetary allocation to ministries.

2) Overlapping mandates leading to policy paralysis. Eg. mining of Coal Bed Methane with overlapping jurisdictions of Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

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3) Lack of integration. Eg education and skill due to different ministries.

Arguments Against

1) An increase in specialisation and mobilisation of inputs. Eg Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Jal Shakti

2) Focussed approach such as Ministry of Minorities appointment of Sachar Committee.

3) Checks and Balances with one Ministry overlooking the work of related Ministry.

A middle path should be followed with various departments constituted under one Ministry to gain specialisation with limited resources.

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6. Evaluate the success of Digital India in fulfilling its vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

(150 words) 10

भारत को डिजिटल रूप से सशक्त समाज और ज्ञान आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में बदलने के अपने दृष्टिकोण को पूरा करने में डिजिटल इंडिया की सफलता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Ans: Digital India Mission was launched in 2016 with an objective to create Digital Infrastructure, improve ~~govern~~ service delivery and digital empowerment.

Success of Digital India

1) Near completion of optical fibre services to 2.5 L Villages under National Broadband Mission

2) Unveiling schemes such as PM WANI, SVAMITVA Scheme

3) Enhanced service delivery through Common Service Centres, GeM portal

Areas of Concern

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1) Delays in tribal areas, such as Tribal belt of Chhattisgarh not penetrated under Tata contractors.

2) High cost of devices leading to non-utilization of services

3) Corruption in Common Service Centres, where poor villagers are asked to pay great sums for the service.

Bureaucratic inefficiencies and Red Tapism needs to be addressed at the earliest to make Digital India a success my way.

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7. Examine the issues related to poverty measurement in India. Suggest measures to improve upon the existing methodologies. (150 words) 10

भारत में निर्धनता के मापन से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए। मौजूदा पद्धतियों में सुधार के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Ans: Poverty Measurement in India has traditionally relied upon the concepts of Poverty Line estimation.

Issues related to poverty estimation

1) While poverty line estimates Absolute Poverty, relative poverty concept gets missed out.

2) Tendulkar Committee recommendations were short-term. Thus, they miss out a longer poverty estimation stability.

3) Poverty estimation market misses out a comprehensive mechanism which involves health, education, skill development.

4) Poverty estimation has been done away with and last

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estimation was made in 2011.

Measures to improve Poverty Estimation

1) Relative poverty estimation through Poverty Gap, Gini Coefficient, etc.

2) A stable mechanism to estimate poverty, such as one recommended by Rangarajan Committee (2011)

3) A national index based on Multidimensional Poverty Index by Oxford and UNDP.

There is a need to overhaul poverty estimation for better targetting of policies.

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8. As one of the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, discuss the rationale behind internationalisation of higher education in India and its associated challenges. (150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP), 2020 की सिफारिशों में से एक के रूप में, भारत में उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के लिए दिए गए तर्क और इससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans. Internationalisation of higher education has been focused in earlier two policies as well. However, there were implementation deficits.

Rationale behind internationalisation

1) Education is a billion dollar industry in the developed world. Internalisation may vouch India as a Global Hub of Education.

2) World-quality infrastructure and foreign investments in the Higher Education.

3) Curricula would be restructured to deal with rising global demands and making students competition ready.

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Challenges with internationalization

1) The costs of Higher education would skyrocket.

2) Lack of infrastructure not able to support 26% of enrolled students at graduate levels.

3) Poor research capacities with 0.7% of the budgetary allocation.

There is a need to project India as a Global Education Hub after structural changes such as revision of curricula, infrastructure development in the sector.

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9. Stating the significance of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), examine whether they have been as beneficial as expected for India. (150 words) 10

मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों (FTAs) के महत्व को वर्णित करते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या वे भारत के लिए अपेक्षा के अनुसार लाभदायक रहे हैं।

Ans: FTAs refer to trade agreements between two countries or economic entities that aim to lowering down tariffs on frequently traded commodities.

Significance of FTAs

1) Better market access to manufacturing companies
2) Increased trade opportunities and diversification of supply chain
3) Better engagement at the geopolitical level with the FTA countries.

FTAs in India

NITI Aayog has recently published a report on FTA performance in India. This includes:

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1) No significant export gains for India
2) Trade deficit increased from $6 bn to $109 bn between 2011 and 2021
3) FTA utilisation in India is as low as 25%.

Thus, various strategic reforms are required before concluding other FTAs by the country.

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10. Though multilateral development banks (MDBs) are crucial for holistic development of developing nations like India, there are certain legitimate concerns about their functioning. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि बहुपक्षीय विकास बैंक (MDBs) भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों के समग्र विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, तथापि उनके कामकाज के बारे में कुछ वैध चिंताएं भी हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) refer to global or regional financial institutions that aim at development across the world. eg World Bank, Asian Development Bank.

Need for MDBs in Developing World

1) Transfer of technology and developmental grants by World Bank

2) Dealing with BoP crisis, eg 1991 Crisis in India.

3) Loans raised in case of emergencies, eg India from ADB during COVID 19 crisis

4) Infrastructural loans for railways, roads, etc. at concessional.

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rates by AIIB.

5) Reserve tranche in case of emergency situations.

Concerns regarding MDBs

1) Bretton Woods Institutions are more inclined towards the interests of developed world, eg. USA.

2) Various dictations are imposed on the borrowing countries in the form of Washington Consensus

3) Loss of relevance with a rise of private credit agencies

4) Source of geopolitical tensions leading to rise of alternative banks such as NDB and AIIB.

There is a need for reformed Multilateralism as voiced by Indian PM.

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11. Despite the legal framework to resolve inter-state river water disputes, why do they continue to exist? Also, discuss measures that can be taken to resolve such disputes in an expeditious and agreeable manner.

(250 words) 15

अंतर्राज्यीय नदी जल विवादों को हल करने के लिए कानूनी ढांचे के विद्यमान होने के बावजूद, वे अभी भी जारी क्यों हैं? साथ ही, ऐसे विवादों को शीघ्र और सहमतिपूर्ण रीति से हल करने के लिए किए जा सकने वाले उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: Art. 264 of the Indian Constitution has provisions on Inter-State River Water Disputes in the country

Legal Framework to solve Disputes

1) Inter-State River Water Tribunals Act, 1956 by the Parliament to deal with inter-state disputes over river water.

2) Various tribunals with dividing awards have been created such as Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal.

3) Recently, a Bill has been proposed to amend the 1956 Act.

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Reasons for existence of River Water Dispute

1) Delays in granting awards, eg. 10 years by Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

2) Non-monitoring of the awards leading to unchanged situation on ground.

3) Reluctance by states as they consider such intervention as a blot on federalism

Measures that can be taken

1) A single tribunal with multiple benches for more legitimacy

2) Time-bound and expeditious awards, eg within 3 years.

3) An expert monitoring committee to check the implementation.

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12. While use of technology is a welcome step towards improving the efficiency of the judicial system, it must be understood that technology itself comes with a set of challenges that make justice even more inaccessible. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

हालांकि न्यायिक प्रणाली की दक्षता में सुधार की दिशा में प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है, लेकिन यह भी समझा जाना चाहिए कि प्रौद्योगिकी स्वयं चुनौतियों के एक समूह को साथ लाती है जो न्याय को और भी अधिक दुर्गम बनाती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: COVID 19 has expanded the scope of the use of technology by the judiciary.

Technology and efficiency of Judicial systems

1) Less expensive e-courts
2) Geographical limitations can be overcome. Eg. Person in Chennai doesn't have to travel to Delhi for a case in Supreme Court.
3) Time saving for the judges as well as the parties.
4) Better data keeping in line with Art. 129

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Challenges with use of technology in Judicial systems

1) Digital Divide with only 14% internet users in the rural areas

2) Privacy and security concerns

3) Lack of human touch

4) Reluctance on the part of lawyers in switching to a new mode where senior lawyers may be at a disadvantage.

Thus, technology is rightly called a "double edged sword" which should be dealt with carefully after proper cost-benefit analysis.

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13. The current urban planning capacities in India are extremely skeletal and need systemic reforms and a change in mindset. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में शहरी नियोजन की वर्तमान क्षमताएं अत्यंत सीमित हैं तथा प्रणालीगत सुधारों और मानसिकता में बदलाव की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: Almost 30% of the Indian population lives in urban areas, as per a report by MoHUA in 2020.

Problems with Urban Planning

1) Lack of well-trained contractors in Urban India
2) Lack of formal credit services, especially after the fall of NBFC sector and IL&FS crisis.
3) Haphazard urban development leading to problems such as flash floods.

Need for systemic reforms

1) Sustainable city-level plans taking in account expansion of population.

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2) Generating technological capacities in the city.

3) Community centres and health-care professionals in the localities.

4) Separate walking areas for pedestrians and cycling roads.

Need of a Change in Mindset

1) Environmental consciousness leading to development of rainwater harvesting structures, opting for Green Buildings and energy-efficient behaviour.

2) Community-preparedness for a disaster.

3) Change in social attitude, aimed through ANGIKAAR campaign.

Thus, a responsible mindset is required for better urban development.

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14. Reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has not translated into corresponding increase in women's representation in India's state legislatures. Bringing out the reasons for the same, discuss how under-representation of women in the state legislatures can be corrected.

(250 words) 15

पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRIs) में महिलाओं के लिए प्रदत्त आरक्षण उसी अनुपात में भारत की राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के प्रतिनिधित्व में वृद्धि में परिवर्तित नहीं हुआ है। इसके कारणों को वर्णित करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के कम प्रतिनिधित्व में कैसे सुधार किया जा सकता है।

Ans: ~~Articles 243~~ 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993 mandates one-third reservation of seats for women at all levels.

However, this did not impact the State Legislature as:

1) No legal provision for mandatory representation of women in State Legislatures

2) Patriarchal mindset ~~resu~~ resulting in the phenomena of Sarpanchi Pati at the local level

3) Lack of education and empowerment of women.

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The under-representation can be corrected by following measures:

1) Legal mandate for women reservation under Art. 15(3).
2) Incentives to political parties for one-third contestation by women
3) Empowerment of women and awareness campaigns

The same measures should be emulated at the Centre to increase representation of women from the present 14.8% women in Lok Sabha.

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15. For effective public service delivery, there is need to shift from traditional accountability mechanisms to social accountability mechanisms. In this context, discuss the pre-conditions for the success of social accountability efforts and challenges associated with them. (250 words) 15

प्रभावी सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण के लिए, पारंपरिक जवाबदेही तंत्र से सामाजिक जवाबदेही तंत्र में स्थानांतरित करने की आवश्यकता है। इस संदर्भ में, सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व के प्रयासों की सफलता के लिए पूर्व-शर्तों और उनसे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: Public service delivery is a major goal/objective of a welfare state. There is a need for accountability mechanisms to ensure public service delivery is efficient.

Traditional Accountability Mechanisms

- RTI Act, 2005
- Comptroller & Auditor General
- Parliamentary tools such as Question Hour
- Parliamentary Committees such as Public Accounts Committee

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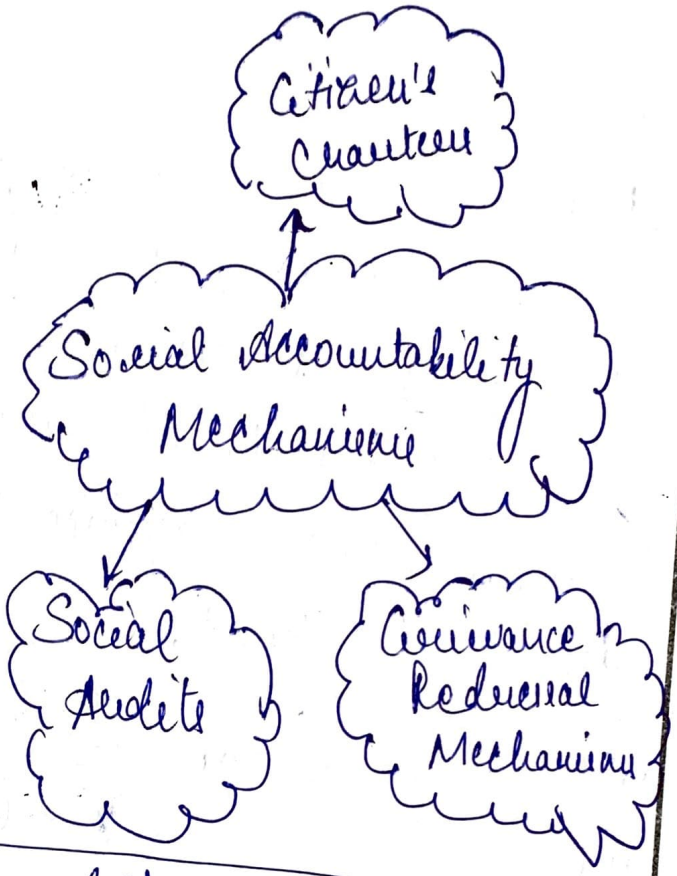

Need to shift to Social Accountability Mechanisms

1) Power emanates from citizens of India as the Preamble reads "We the People of India..."
2) Lack of independence of the bodies such as CIC
3) Rising awareness and education penetration in the people

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Pre-conditions for success of social accountability

1) Representative bodies such as comprising women, tribals, SCs, etc.
2) Tools of accountability such as data collection, statistical analysis
3) Role of media in popularising such audits and accountability measures.

Challenges with Social Accountability

1) Lack of representation, esp. women.
2) Lack of background research involving mission and vision statement.
3) Lack of political support with government officials hampering such an exercise.

There is a need for effective check on the government bodies at the citizens level

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16. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) remains one of the most ambitious programmes for public welfare and rural development, but its objectives cannot be achieved without strong and capable Panchayati Raj Institutions. Elucidate.

(250 words) 15

महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम (मनरेगा) अभी भी लोक कल्याण और ग्रामीण विकास के लिए सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रमों में से एक है, लेकिन इसके उद्देश्यों को मजबूत और सक्षम पंचायती राज संस्थानों के बिना हासिल नहीं किया जा सकता है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Ans. MGNREGA was statutorily introduced in 2008 to provide guaranteed employment to the rural families.

MGNREGA for rural development and public welfare

1) As an alternative to Right to Work, MGNREGA provides 100 days of assured work to the rural families.

2) Upliftment of women with one-third of the jobs being given to women.

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3) With guaranteed employment for adults, children are brought out of child labour and directed towards schools.

4) Development of community assets for rural development.

Role of strong PRIs in MGNREGA

1) High correlation with success in MGNREGA and strong PRIs, as seen through success in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, etc.

2) Participatory Rural Appraisal for determining community assets to be developed.

3) MGNREGA was a village-oriented scheme required to be implemented by a village-specific body

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4) Social audits conducted by Gram Sabha under strong PRIs.

Thus, democratic decentralisation is a prerequisite for the efficient implementation of welfare schemes.

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17. Despite legal safeguards and international conventions, the State has failed to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities in general and those with psychosocial disabilities in particular. Discuss in the context of India.

(250 words) 15

कानूनी सुरक्षोपायों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अभिसमयों के बावजूद, राज्य सामान्य रूप से दिव्यांगजनों और विशेष रूप से मनोसामाजिक दिव्यांगजनों के अधिकारों को बनाए रखने में विफल रहा है। भारत के संदर्भ में विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: Persons with Disabilities account for more than x% of the Indian population (Census 2011).

Legal Safeguards and International conventions

1) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights

2) Art. 24 of the Indian Constitution that deals with exploitation / Rights against exploitation

3) Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

4) Accessible India Campaign for physical, digital and social accessibility.

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Failure of the State

1) In General
- Lack of ramping facilities in various govt. institutions
- Public transportation has not been aligned to the needs of PwDs.
- Lack of sensitivity among govt. servants in dealing with PwDs.

2) In psychosocial disabilities 90% of PwDs have been identified to have psycho-social disabilities.
- Curricula not sensitive to the demands of such children
- No specialised education institutions for such children
- Care and psychosocial needs are tabooed leading to

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lack of access to treatment.

India needs to ramp up its digital, social and physical capabilities in tune with the need of PWDs.

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18. To what extent has the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) been successful in solving the problem of rural housing in India? Discuss with adequate arguments. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में ग्रामीण आवास की समस्या को सुलझाने में प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) किस सीमा तक सफल रही है? पर्याप्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) is a dedicated time-bound centrally sponsored scheme with an objective of 'Housing for All' by 2022.

Success of PMAY(G)

1) Successful delivery of more than 2.5 lakh houses in the rural areas

2) These houses have an in-built toilet system in line with Swachh Bharat Mission.

3) Positive fallouts in the form of resilience during pandemic.

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Problems with PMAY(G)

1) Quality issues with the houses; dripping roofs, cheap materials and compromised sanitation.

2) Water fitted households but an expensive water supply is drawback for poor people.

3) corruption in allotment of houses and exclusion of various deserving beneficiaries.

An audit by CAG of India is pending, post which the real situation of PMAY(G) would be revealed.

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19. Despite the potential of India's Neighbourhood First policy, there have been several impediments to regional cooperation in South Asia. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत की नेबरहुड फर्स्ट नीति में क्षमता होने के बावजूद, दक्षिण एशिया में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग के लिए कई बाधाएं विद्यमान हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: Neighbourhood First Policy is a policy development in line with Gujral Doctrine stressing Regional Autonomy phase of India's Foreign Policy.

Potential of Neighbourhood First Policy

1) Economic cooperation with trade and infrastructure projects such as Kaladan Multi-Modal Project, IMT trilateral Highway

2) Strategic location close to Strait of Malacca and Palk Strait

3) Security arrangements with SKINEX, SANDRIT exercise.

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4) Cultural cooperation in the form of tourism, cultural exchanges, Project Mausam, etc.

5) Multilateral cooperation through arrangements like SAARC, SAFTA.

Impediments in regional cooperation in S. Asia

1) India - Pakistan rivalry in the region responsible for SAARC meeting suspension since 2017

2) SAFTA could not materialise due to trade restrictions between countries.

3) Rise of China in the region with its control over Hambantota Port, Gwadar Port and CPEC initiative.

4) Alleged Big Brother attitude by India in Economic Blockade of Nepal (2015)

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5) Border disputes between India-Pakistan, India-Nepal

There is a need for a successful regional forums such as BIMSTEC and the need to ~~issue~~ address the issue of human smuggling before peace and stability can be brought to the region.

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20. It is argued that China's Belt and Road Initiative has resulted in unsustainable debt-for-infrastructure deals in several countries across continents and it is a part of debt trap diplomacy. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि चीन का बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव महाद्वीपों के कई देशों में गैर-संधारणीय अवसंरचना के लिए-ऋण आधारित सौदों में परिणत हुआ है और यह ऋण जाल कूटनीति का एक हिस्सा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: The term 'Debt Trap Diplomacy' was coined in India in 2017 to refer the policy where a country grants loans at cheaper rates to other countries with such conditions that it becomes impossible for the country to repay those loans and it has to leverage its assets in lieu of loan.

BRI as a part of Debt Trap Diplomacy

Arguments for

1) Various instances such Hambantota Port, Djibouti naval base, Gwadar Port point towards Debt Trap Diplomacy

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2) China's expansionist policies revealed by Seven Dash Line controversy.

3) Complementary to its Cheque Book Diplomacy, 'Strings of Pearl' initiative.

Arguments Against

1) Genuine loans with Sri Lankan government reaching out to China, not China reaching to Sri Lanka.

2) Traditionally, China has been providing such loans in good faith pointing to Debt Trap Policy being a myth.

3) China has exempted loans for 42 countries without damaging infrastructure.

Though India needs to be cognisant of the BRI policy of China, it

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cannot be conclusively stated that it is a part of Debt Trap Policy.

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